

Cliff Walk  
Portion between Leroy Avenue (projected)  
and Narragansett Avenue  
Newport  
Newport County  
Rhode Island

HAER No. RI-18

HABS  
RI,  
3-NEWP,  
80-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
Mid-Atlantic Region  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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Cliff Walk

HAER No. RI-18

Location: Portion between Leroy Avenue (projected and  
Narragansett Avenue  
Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island

Date of Construction: Evolved from a 19th century fishermen's trail

Present Owner: City of Newport

Present Use: Scenic walkway

Significance: As part of Newport's National Register district, the  
Cliff Walk serves as a recreational and aesthetic  
contribution to the area it serves. Developing from a  
dirt trail utilized by fishermen, it has, in the past,  
and presently serves as an important historic landmark  
winding between Newport's mansions and the Atlantic  
Ocean.

Project Information: This documentation is in compliance with Section 106  
of the National Historic Preservation Act in response  
to proposed erosion control which would adversely  
affect the appearance of the present cliff face.  
Mitigative documentation was prepared by Thomas F.  
Bliss, for the Office of City Engineer, City of  
Newport, Rhode Island, August 10, 1984.

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985

This report pertains to only that section of the Cliff Walk between Leroy Avenue (projected) and Narragansett Avenue. This portion passes along the top of the cliffs, east of the former Goelet mansion (now Salve Regina College) and the present Goelet mansion at height of 50 feet above sea level.

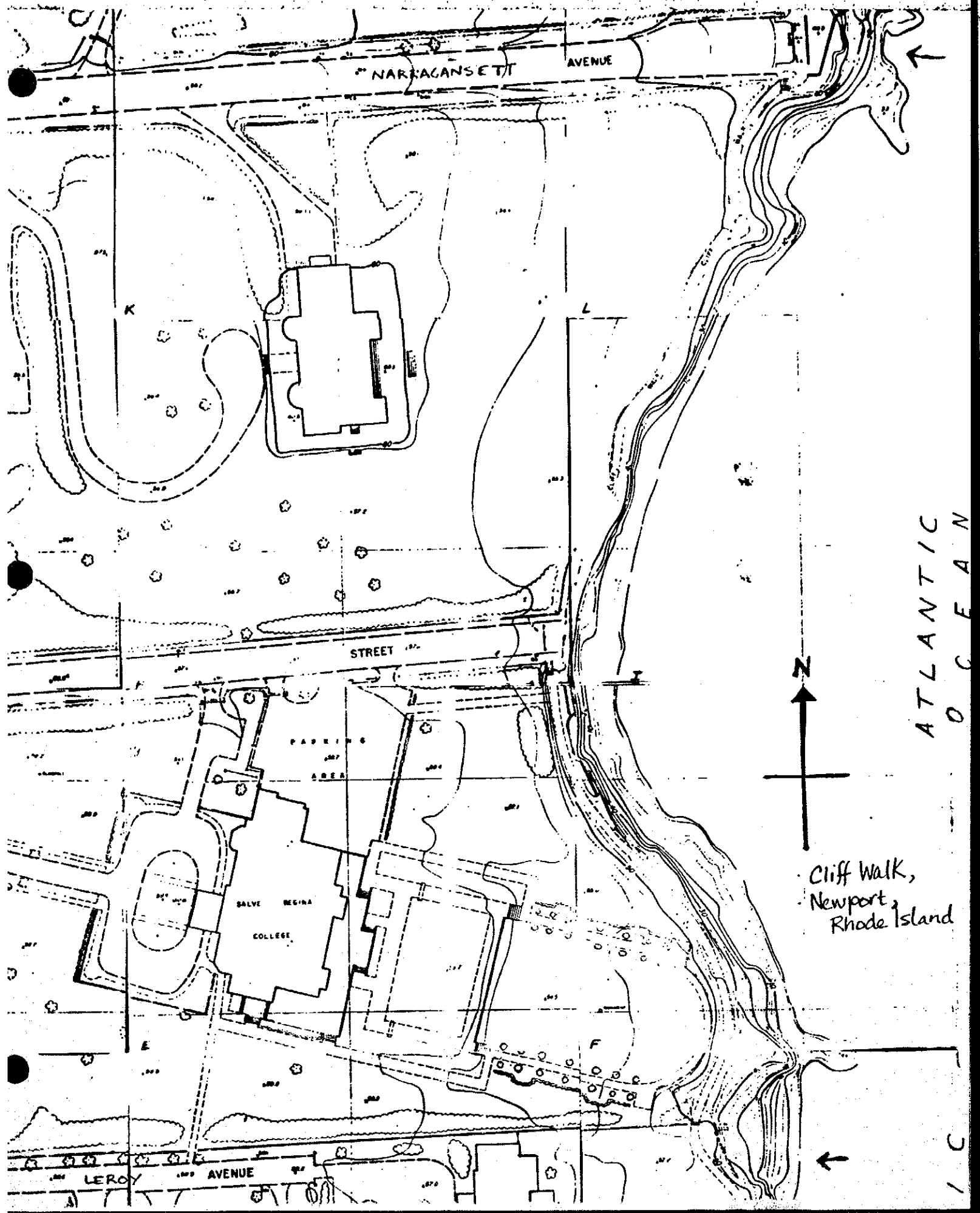
This location, winding along the cliffs above the Atlantic Ocean and in front of the historic mansions of Newport, makes it an important contribution to the historical significance of the district. It is virtually unchanged from the time when it served as a path for fishermen in the 19th century.

Over the years, the pounding of the sea at the base of the cliffs and the runoff from overland flow at the top of the cliffs have taken their toll on the integrity of the Cliff Walk and on the cliffs themselves. Other portions of the Cliff Walk have been altered and restored in the 1970s, yet the portion between Leroy and Narragansett Avenues has not. The condition is deteriorated and hazardous.

This restoration project includes the construction of a stone revetment at that portion of the base of the cliffs where erosion has been most severe as well as the construction of a stone-faced retaining wall at the top of the cliffs in those locations where erosion has washed out or threatens to wash out portions of the earlier gravel walkway. One thousand feet of walkway will be paved with blacktop and guarded with a safety fence. Disturbed landscaping will be replaced.

These changes will not affect the integrity and historical significance of the historic mansions to the west of the Cliff Walk.

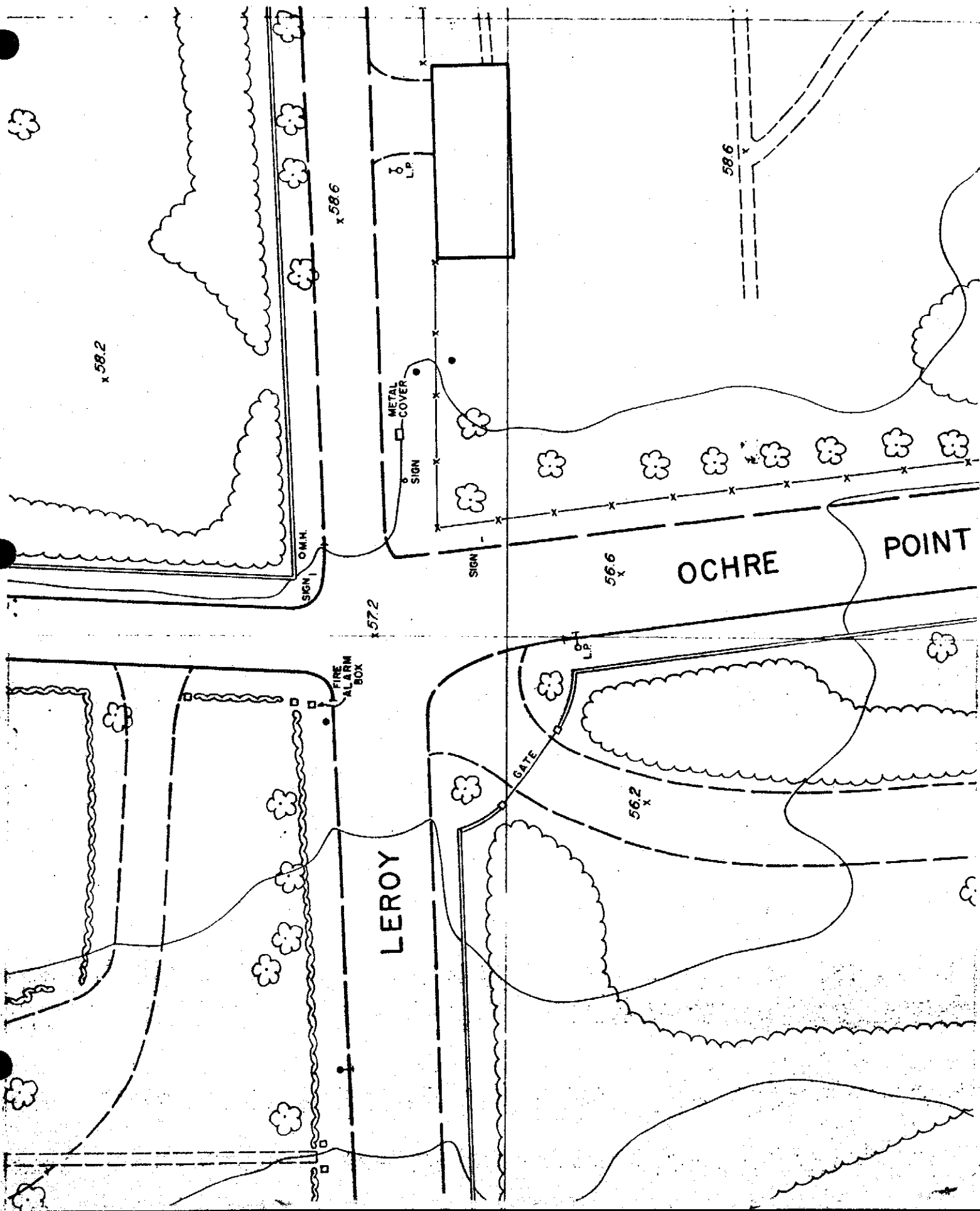
Compiled topographical map sections (8x10 sections)

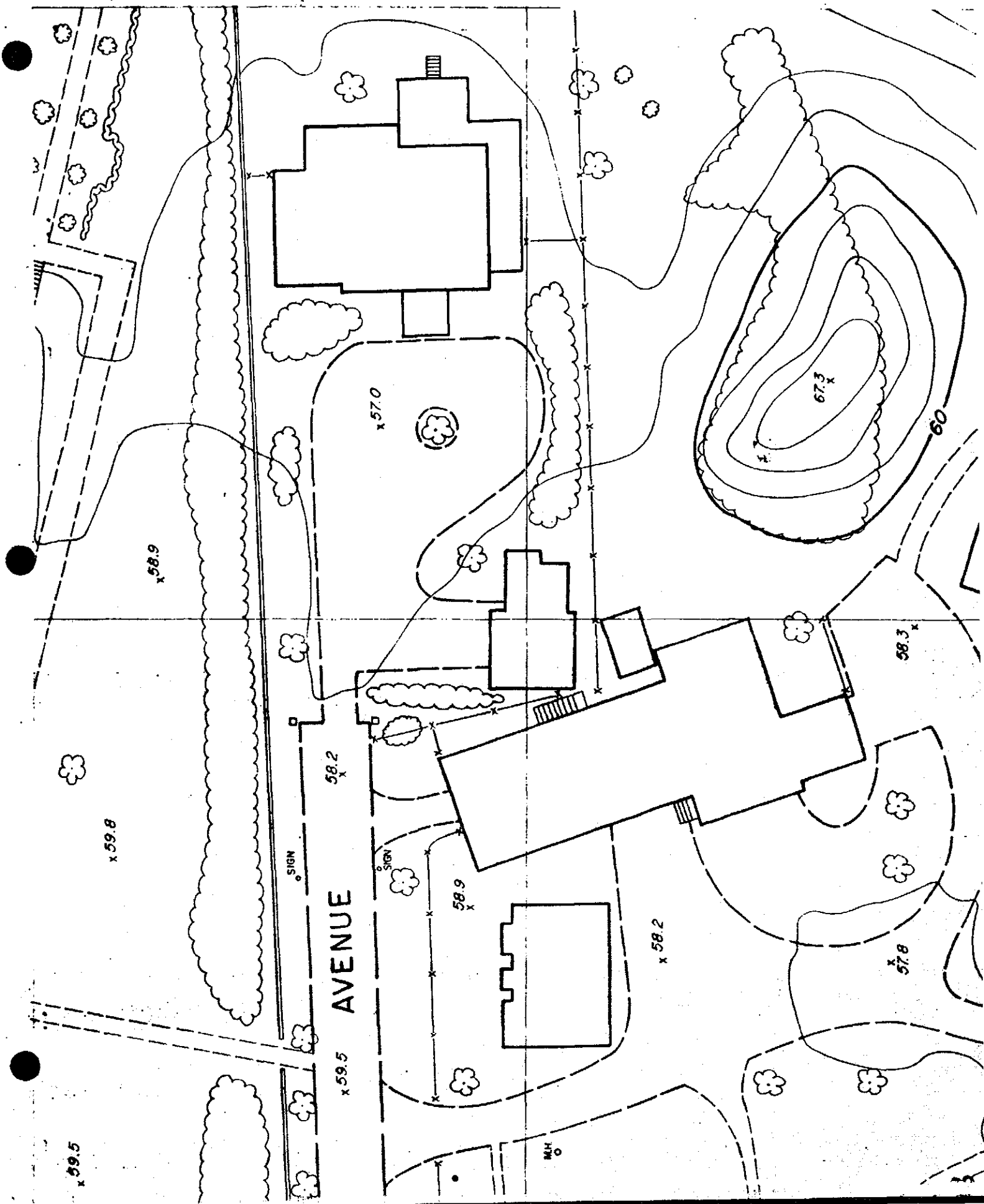


CLIFF WALK, NEWPORT, R.I.

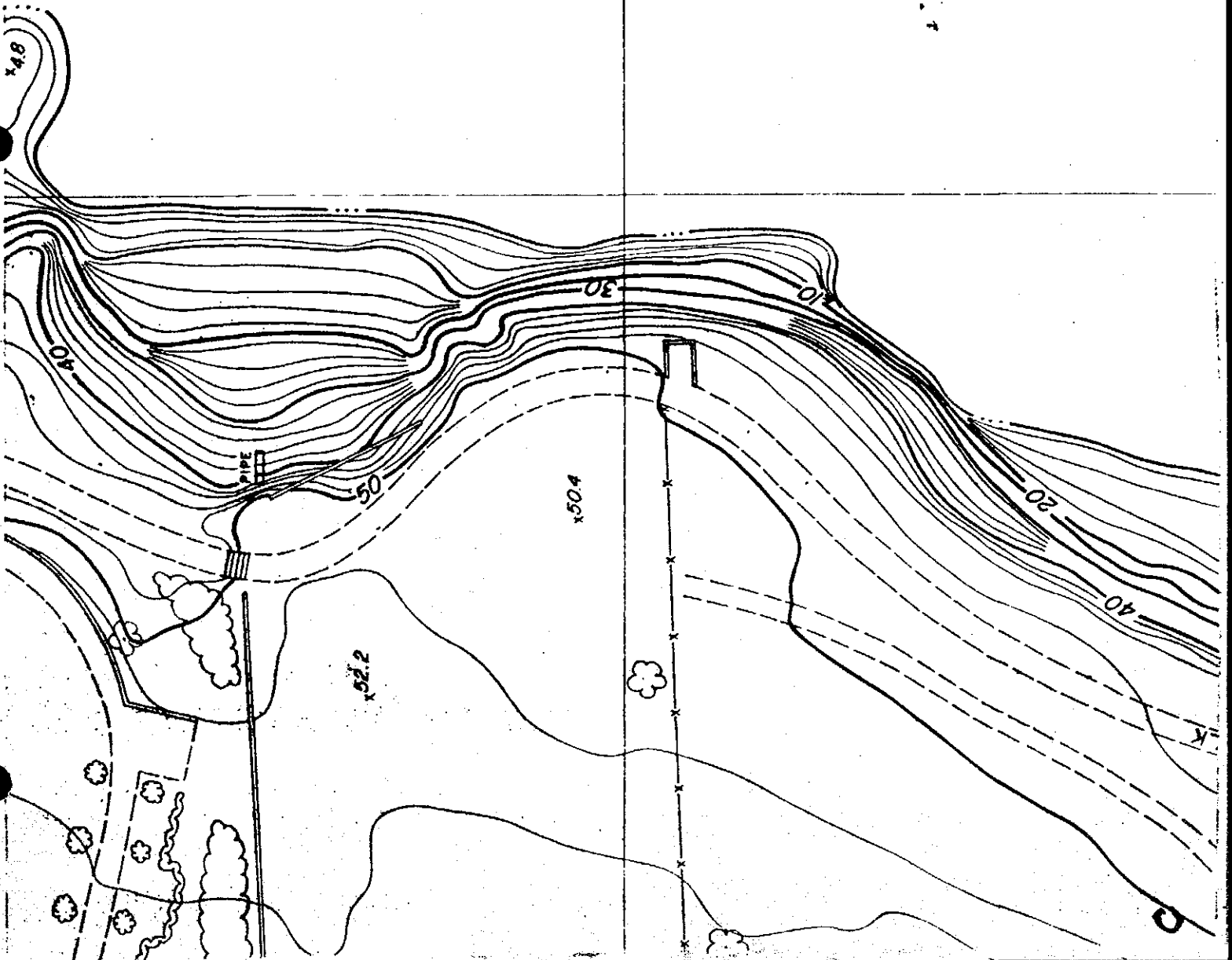
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KEY FOR  
8" x 10" PLATES



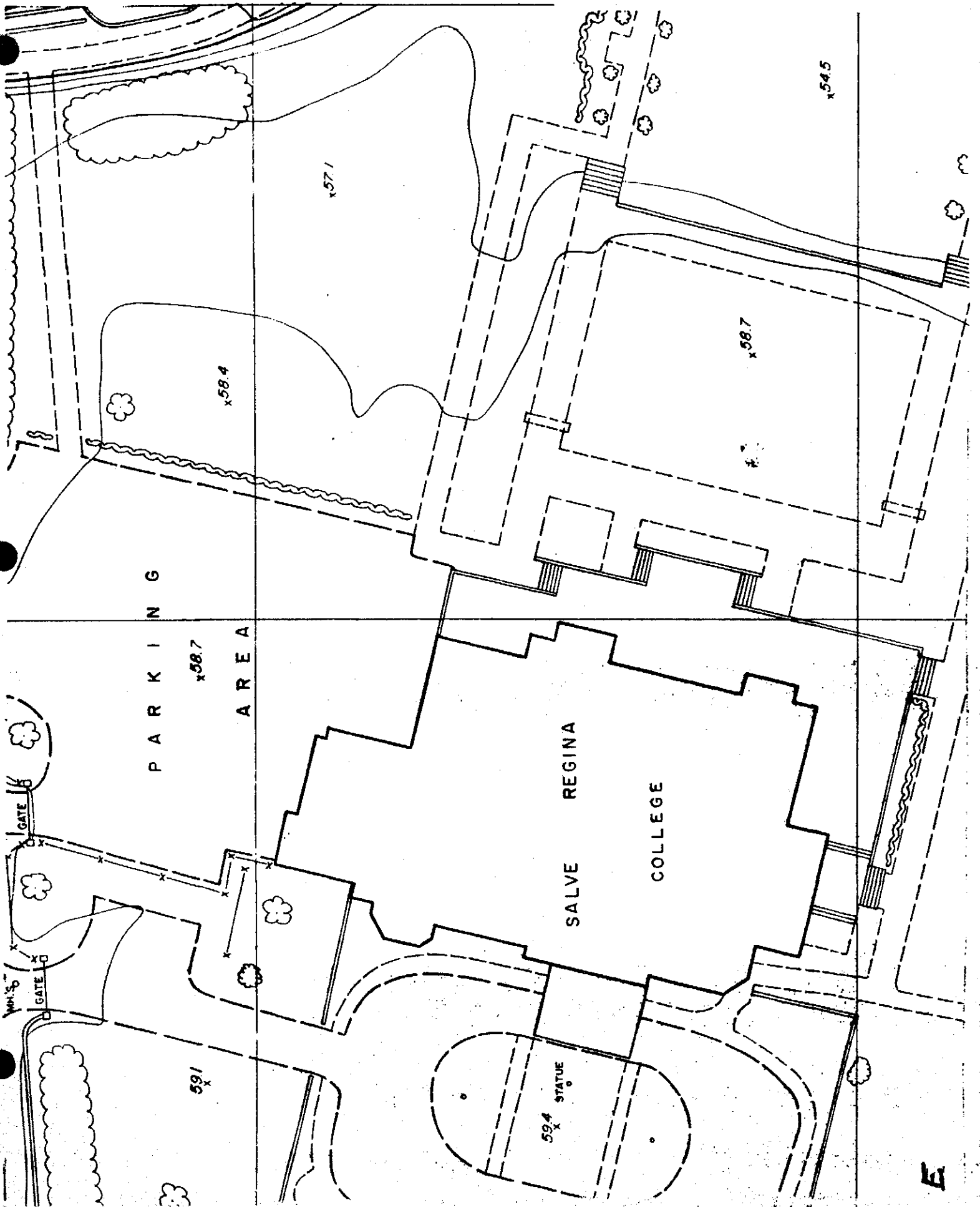


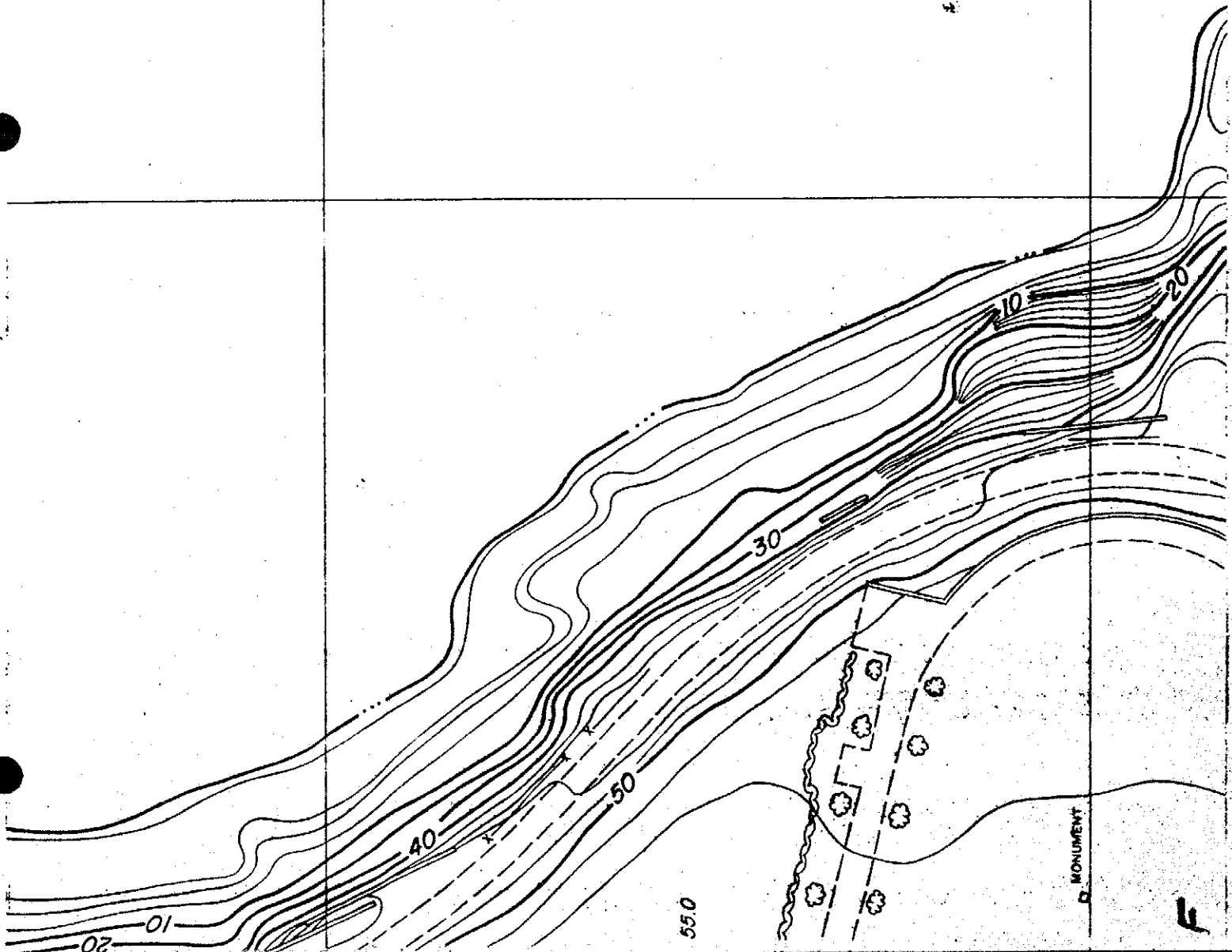
T L A N T I C

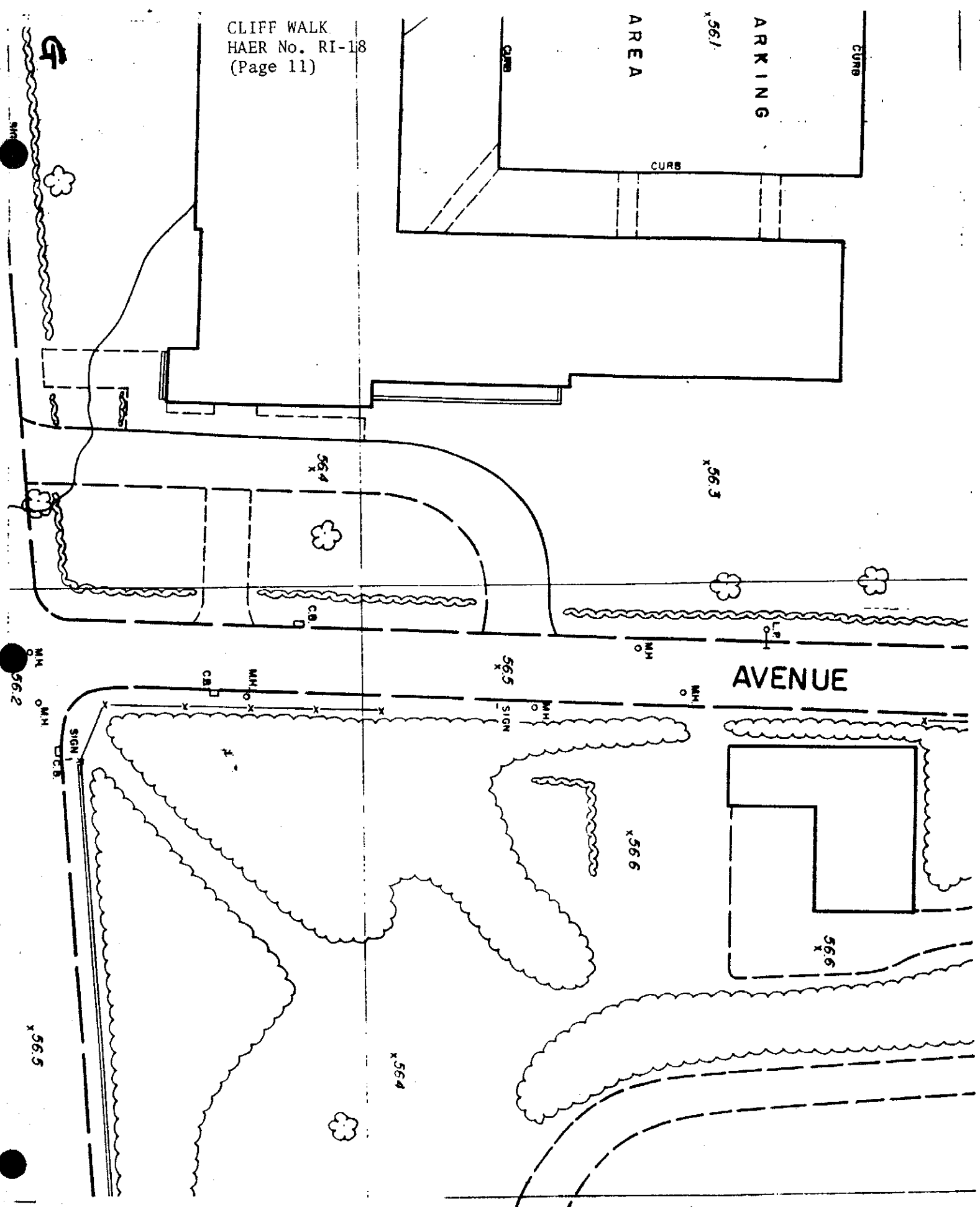


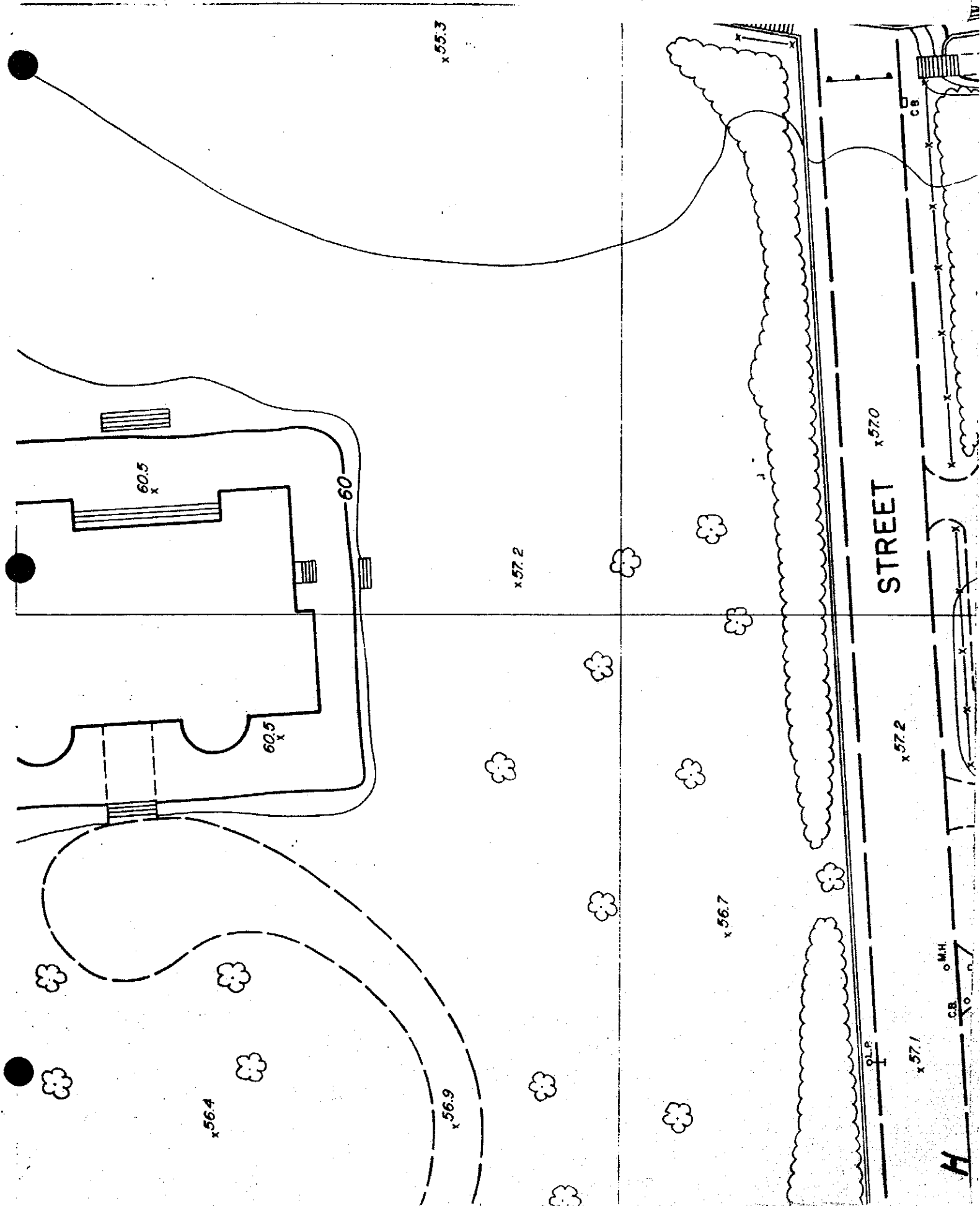


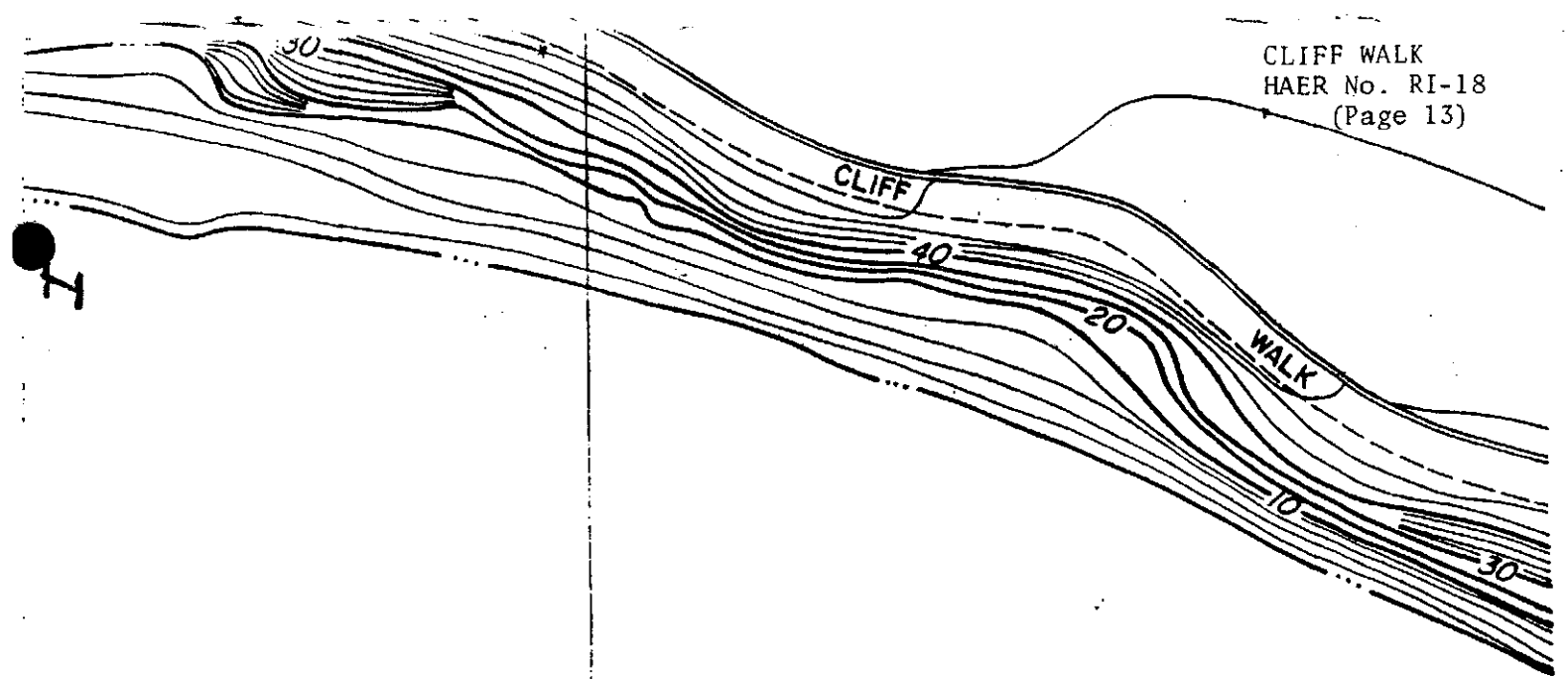












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